


BOROUGH OF ST. IVES (HUNTS)

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR 1949

THE RIDLEY PRESS,
ST. IVES, HUNTS.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOROUGH OF SAINT IVES (Hunts.)
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1949.

To:-

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Saint Ives (Hunts.)

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

*I have the honour to present the Annual Report
on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough.*

This is my last report as your medical officer.

*I wish to express my appreciation of the kindness,
consideration and understanding you have shown
me during my short time with you and to thank the
staff for their support and co-operation.*

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

E. T. SHENNAN,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

E. T. SHENNAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—

G. G. YEANDLE, M.R.S.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	2,326 acres
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£18,552
Value of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£72.5.4
Number of Inhabited Houses (approx.)	...	...	...	...	...	1,002
Population (middle 1948)	...	...	...	...	...	3,070
Population (middle 1949)	...	...	...	...	...	3,200

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	27	25	52	Birth-rate per 1,000
Illegitimate	1	3	4	estimated population 17.5
	—	—	—	(Ditto for England
Total	28	28	56	and Wales) 16.7
	—	—	—	

STILL BIRTHS	M.	F.	Total	
Legitimate	1	0	1	Rate per 1,000 esti-
Illegitimate	0	0	0	mated population ... 0.31
	—	—	—	(Ditto for England
Total	1	0	1	and Wales) 0.39
	—	—	—	

DEATHS (all ages)	35	Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population 10.94 (Ditto for England and Wales) 11.7
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—

No. 29 Puerperal and post abort. sepsis	}	Nil
No. 30 Other maternal causes		

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate
Illegitimate
	—	—	—
Total
	—	—	—

Death-rates of Infants under 1 year :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	0
(Ditto for England and Wales)	...	...	...	32.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	10
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	0

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar-General's Short List)

List No.	Cause	M.	F.
6	Tuberculosis of resp. system	0	0
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0
13	Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph.	1	0
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	0	0
15	Cancer of breast	0	0
16	Cancer of all other sites	5	4
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	1	2
19	Heart diseases	8	7
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	1	0
21	Bronchitis	0	1
22	Pneumonia	0	0
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	0	0
27	Other digestive diseases	0	1
28	Nephritis	0	2
31	Premature Birth	0	0
33	Suicide	0	0
34	Road traffic accident	0	0
35	Other violent causes	1	0
36	All other causes	1	0
TOTAL FROM ALL CAUSES		18	17

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the Area :—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel. : Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst, S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C., Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel. : Cambridge 2097.

(b) Ambulance Services

(i) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctors' orders. Tel. : Huntingdon 67.

(ii) An Ambulance stationed at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital has been available for cases of infectious disease. Tel. : Huntingdon 59.

(c) Home Nursing

A nurse-midwife, resident in St. Ives (Tel. : St. Ives 2228), employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council, carried out Home Nursing and attended Maternity Cases in the Borough.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres

(i) The following Health Services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council :—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Clinic Buildings, Broadway, St. Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m.	Ditto.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren. Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	3rd Friday in month. 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2-3.30 p.m.	Ditto.
		Every Wednesday (except 2nd in month) and every Saturday. 10 a.m.-12 noon. (By appointment.)	Dental Clinic, Princes Street, Huntingdon.

(ii) The following Health Services are now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, but are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council :—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2 p.m.-4 p.m.	Old Grammar School, Huntingdon.
Orthopaedic	Ditto.	2nd and 4th Tuesdays in month (Surgeons by appointment). 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Ditto.
Chest	All ages	Every Monday. 2.30-3.30 p.m.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.

(iii) The following Health Services are now provided by the Regional Hospital Board :—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Veneral Diseases	All cases	Tuesdays, 3 p.m. Thursdays, 7 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
		Males: Wednesdays and Fridays, 4-6 p.m. Females: Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Fridays, 10-12 noon.	28 Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough.

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological, and Dental Out-patients' Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) Hospital Services

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, all hospitals in the area came under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

Fever.—Huntingdon Isolation Hospital provides facilities for the investigation and treatment of infectious diseases.

General Hospital Services are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases can be admitted to Paxton Park Maternity Home, St. Neots. Admissions are arranged through the County Medical Officer.

SANITARY CONDITIONS

1 (1) **Water.**—The consumption of water in the Borough, which is obtained in bulk from the Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board, shows a decrease on the previous year. The total consumption for the year was 35,395,000 gallons, which is a decrease of 1,453,000 gallons.

The Water Board has completed a new line of pipe which has been linked up with the then existing supply line, and the result has been a considerable increase in the pressure, which has been a great asset to the properties on the outskirts of the Borough which are situated at a high level in comparison to the Town.

No alteration has been made with regard to the treatment of the water, which is carried out by the Board by chlorination and de-chlorination.

The rainfall for the year was 18.17 inches, which is considerably below the average for the district, but in spite of this the private supplies in the Borough were adequate and no complaints were received as to shortage.

115 samples were taken during the year in the Borough for examination and report; of these, 5 were found to be unsatisfactory and were traced to faulty taps.

Name of Town, Village, or Parish	Source of Supply:— Public Supply, Wells, etc.	Sufficiency or Otherwise	Quality of Water	Analysis of Individual Supplies:— Satisfactory, Unsatisfactory, or none
St. Ives	Purchased in bulk from Chesterton and St. Ives Joint Water Board.	Satisfactory.	Satisfactory.	110 analyses were satisfactory from Public supply. 5 analyses from Public supply were unsatisfactory and were corrected.

Number of such Analyses 115	Estimated Number and Dwellings Supplied			Estimated Population Supplied		
	Direct from Main Supply: 924	By Stand-pipes: 42	By Public or Private Wells: 36	Direct from Main Supply: 2,807	By Stand-pipes: 140	By Public or Private Wells: 123

(2) **Drainage and Sewerage.**—Apart from general maintenance no works in connection with drainage and sewerage have been carried out. No progress has been made with regard to the provision of an entirely new sewerage scheme for which a survey has already been made and, although the need for same is still as urgent as ever, it would appear to be a matter which will entail such heavy expenditure that until substantial grants are made available there is no likelihood of the matter proceeding.

2 **Rivers and Streams.**—No important work with regard to rivers and streams was carried out during the year ; the widening and regrading of certain main ditches which had been carried out during the previous year and which discharge into the River Great Ouse had made a marked difference to the immediate area, and it is understood that the River Great Ouse Catchment Board, who control the main river, has under consideration schemes which should materially assist in preventing some of the serious flooding which has occurred in past years.

3 (1) **Closet Accommodation.**—Until a new sewerage scheme is provided very little change can be made from the conditions which exist. However, whenever possible all new properties have been connected to the existing system.

The collection and disposal of night-soil remains the same and no complaints were received during the year.

(2) **Public Cleansing.**—The Council has entered into a contract with the St. Ives Rural District Council for the collection of house refuse by providing the vehicle and a driver and also being responsible for the provision of tipping accommodation, the Borough Council assisting with loaders. This scheme, which covers the disposal of refuse, has solved one of the difficult problems of the past.

The collection of salvage has been discontinued owing to the fact that waste paper, which was the main bulk of the salvage, is no longer in short supply.

4 **Shops and Offices.**—No complaints were received and no infringements were found on inspection during the year.

5 **Camping Sites.**—No applications for licensing camping sites were made during the year in the Borough and no licences have been granted previously.

6 **Smoke Abatement.**—No complaints were received with regard to nuisances caused by smoke and no nuisances were observed during the year.

7 **Swimming Baths.**—The swimming bath, which is an open-air one and constructed so that a continual flow of water runs through the pool from the River Great Ouse and discharges into a backwater, was closed for the season owing to the fact that the samples of water taken on analysis were found to be unsuitable for bathing purposes.

A scheme for the general repair of the baths and the treatment of the water is under consideration, and it is hoped that during the coming season work will be put in hand which will eliminate the trouble.

8 **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**—During inspections no cases of infestation were found and no complaints of infestation were received during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) **Milk Supply.**—The cowsheds and dairies in the district number 5, all of which have been kept in a satisfactory condition. Since 1st October 1949 they are now under the control of the Huntingdonshire Agricultural Executive Committee.

The milk which is retailed in the Borough is mainly produced in the St. Ives Rural District Area.

(b) **Meat.**—The Borough slaughter-house is still in the occupation of the Ministry of Food and officials appointed by the County Council are responsible for the examination of the meat.

No private slaughter-houses were used during the year for the slaughtering of animals.

(c) **Bakehouses.**—There are three registered bakehouses in the area, all of which have been maintained in a satisfactory manner.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning notified during the year.

INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	10	17	Nil	Nil
(2) Section 7	25	26	Nil	Nil
Total	35	43	Nil	Nil

Defect	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	1	1	—	—
Total	1	1	—	—

HOUSING

1 Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 163
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 187
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 12
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 15
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
2	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—							
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
3	Action under statutory powers during the year :—							
(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—							
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs							0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—							
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners							0
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—							
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—							
(a)	By owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners							0
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—							
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made							0
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders							3
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—							
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit							0

4 Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 0
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 0
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein 0
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 0
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 1
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases... 3
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding 0
- (e) The Council is proceeding with the erection of council houses as rapidly as possible. There are approximately 241 applicants for council houses at present.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

	Total Cases Notified
Scarlet fever	Nil
Whooping cough	6
Diphtheria	Nil
Measles	7
Acute Pneumonia	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Typhoid fever	Nil
Erysipelas	Nil
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There was a low incidence of infectious disease during the year. The district was fortunate in not being involved in the poliomyelitis epidemic which occurred in the surrounding neighbourhood.

Diphtheria Immunisation

From figures available at 31st December 1949, it was shown that 66.1 per cent of the child population (0-14 years) had received a primary course of immunisation to protect them from diphtheria. 50 per cent of the babies (0-4 years) were so protected. The school children (5-14 years) were moderately well protected with 76.7 per cent.

There is still great need to encourage all mothers to have their babies immunised before school age.

Facilities for diphtheria immunisation are available at Infant Welfare Clinics, through the School Medical Service, and from General Practitioners.

TUBERCULOSIS

Total number on register at 31st December 1949 : 18.
Pulmonary : 11. Non-pulmonary : 7.

AGE PERIODS				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-pul.		Pulmonary		Non-pul.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 and upwards	..		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..				5	0	1	2	0	0	0	0

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

